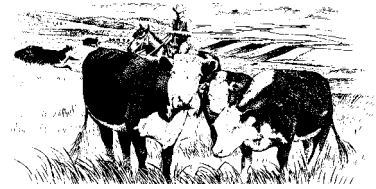


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CATTLE ON FEED IN CALIFORNIA

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter in California feedlots totaled 500 thousand head on April 1, 2005, 3 percent below last month, but 1 percent above April 2004. During March, placements of 65.0 thousand head were 7 percent below the previous year. Marketings of 70.0 thousand head were 1 percent below March of 2004. Other disappearance totaled 10.0 thousand head.

U.S. CATTLE ON FEED UP 1 PERCENT

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for 1,000+ head capacity feedlots totaled 10.9 million head on April 1, 2005. The inventory was 1 percent above both April 1, 2004 and 2003. The inventory included 6.99 million steers and steer calves, up 5 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 64 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.80 million head, down 6 percent from 2004. Placements in feedlots during March totaled 1.76 million, 3 percent below 2004 and 13 percent below 2003. This is the second lowest number of placements for the month of March since the series began in 1996. Net placements were 1.69 million. During March, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 299 thousand, 600-699 pounds were 320 thousand, 700-799 pounds were 614 thousand, and 800 pounds and greater were 527 thousand. Marketings of fed cattle during March totaled 1.97 million, up slightly from 2004 and 9 percent above 2003. Other disappearance totaled 69.0 thousand during March, 3 percent above 2004 and 11 percent above 2003.

NUMBER OF CATTLE AND CALVES ON FEED IN 1,000+ CAPACITY FEEDLOTS, SELECTED STATES AND UNITED STATES

State	Number On Feed March 1 a/			Placed During March		Marketed During March	
	2004	2005	2005/2004	2004	2005	2004	2005
	1,000 Head						
Arizona	295	322	109	33	27	32	24
California	500	515	103	70	65	71	70
Colorado	1,020	1,040	102	150	175	190	185
Idaho	265	250	94	39	44	46	53
Iowa	405	465	115	69	55	56	64
Kansas	2,390	2,370	99	460	445	470	460
Nebraska	2,270	2,320	102	295	300	350	350
New Mexico	112	125	112	16	13	21	23
Oklahoma	335	340	101	74	61	77	73
South Dakota	210	210	100	33	31	36	34
Texas	2,690	2,690	100	490	480	530	540
Washington	185	185	100	35	22	34	47
Other States	310	320	103	46	42	54	50
UNITED STATES	10,987	11,152	102	1,810	1,760	1,967	1,973
State	Other Disappearance During March b/		Number On Feed April 1 a/		2005/2004		
	2004	2005	2004	2005			
	1,000 Head					Percent	
Arizona	3	2	293	323	110		
California	4	10	495	500	101		
Colorado	10	10	970	1,020	105		
Idaho	3	1	255	240	94		
Iowa	3	1	415	455	110		
Kansas	20	15	2,360	2,340	99		
Nebraska	5	10	2,210	2,260	102		
New Mexico	2	2	105	113	108		
Oklahoma	2	3	330	325	98		
South Dakota	2	2	205	205	100		
Texas	10	10	2,640	2,620	99		
Washington	1	1	185	159	86		
Other States	2	2	300	310	103		
UNITED STATES	67	69	10,763	10,870	101		

a/ Cattle and calves on feed are animals being fed for slaughter market on grain or other concentrates, and are expected to produce a carcass that will grade select or better.

b/ Includes death losses, movement from feedlot to pastures and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding.

CALIFORNIA MILK PRODUCTION

California milk producers produced 3.23 billion pounds of milk in March 2005. This was 13 percent above February 2005 and 4 percent above March 2004.

Monthly milk per cow averaged 1,845 pounds, 210 pounds more than in February 2005 and 30 pounds more than a year ago.

MILK PRODUCTION, CALIFORNIA AND UNITED STATES

Month	CALIFORNIA 1/						Total Milk		UNITED STATES 1/ 2/					
	Milk Cows 3/		Milk Per Cow 4/		Milk Production 4/		Receipts 5/		Milk Cows 3/		Milk Per Cow 4/		Milk Production 4/	
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
	1,000 Head		Pounds		Million Pounds				1,000 Head		Pounds		Million Pounds	
Jan.	1,701	1,739	1,760	1,770	2,994	3,078	2,993	3,074	8,044	8,083	1,624	1,640	13,061	13,258
Feb.	1,706	1,742	1,675	1,635	2,858	2,848	2,856	2,843	8,051	8,076	1,531	1,519	12,329	12,270
Mar.	1,710	1,748	1,815	1,845	3,104	3,225	3,100		8,059	8,097	1,661	1,704	13,387	13,799
Apr.	1,716		1,790		3,072		3,070		8,063		1,636		13,194	
May	1,720		1,830		3,148		3,144		8,064		1,692		13,641	
June	1,724		1,755		3,026		3,021		8,083		1,607		12,988	
July	1,729		1,780		3,078		3,076		8,096		1,623		13,143	
Aug.	1,733		1,775		3,076		3,075		8,102		1,601		12,970	
Sept.	1,737		1,715		2,979		2,974		8,104		1,533		12,426	
Oct.	1,740		1,770		3,080		3,077		8,103		1,583		12,824	
Nov.	1,741		1,700		2,960		2,956		8,102		1,531		12,404	
Dec.	1,741		1,775		3,090		3,087		8,097		1,610		13,037	

1/ Data was revised for January and February of 2005.

2/ Twenty-three-state total.

3/ Includes dry cows, but excludes heifers not yet fresh.

4/ Excludes milk suckled by calves.

5/ Milk receipts are from the California Department of Food and Agriculture's Dairy Marketing and Milk Pooling branches. Excludes on-farm usage.

AVERAGE PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS, CALIFORNIA AND UNITED STATES 1/

Commodity	Unit	CALIFORNIA			UNITED STATES		
		March 2004	February 2005	March 15, 2005	March 2004	February 2005	March 15, 2005
		Dollars					
All Hay, Baled 2/	Tons	104.00	125.00	128.00	81.80	84.70	89.10
Alfalfa, Baled 2/	Tons	105.00	131.00	133.00	86.20	91.90	96.40
Hogs 2/ 3/	Cwt.	---	---	---	47.20	50.70	51.50
Cows 2/	Cwt.	44.00	47.80	46.70	46.50	52.40	53.60
Steers and Heifers 2/	Cwt.	85.50	90.20	93.40	88.00	93.30	96.30
Calves 2/	Cwt.	110.00	118.00	120.00	115.00	128.00	132.00
Sheep 2/	Cwt.	43.00	45.00	---	36.70	51.30	---
Lambs 2/	Cwt.	96.00	101.00	---	103.00	114.00	---
Milk Cows 4/	Head	---	---	---	---	---	---
All Milk Whsle. 2/	Cwt.	14.01	14.51	14.50	15.40	15.50	15.60

1/ The estimated prices in the table represent composite average prices received by farmers and are averages for all grades, classes, and methods of sale of each commodity for the State and U.S. as a whole.

2/ Previous month revised to monthly average.

3/ Price includes barrows, gilts, and sows.

4/ Animals sold for dairy herd replacement only. Prices published January, April, July, and October.

U.S. HOG INVENTORY UP 1 PERCENT

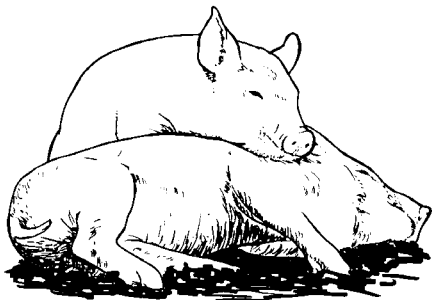
U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs was 59.9 million head on March 1, 2005. This was up 1 percent from March 1, 2004, but down 1 percent from December 1, 2004.

Breeding inventory, at 5.94 million head, was down slightly from both March 1, 2004 and last quarter. Market hog inventory, at 54.0 million head, was up 1 percent from last year, but down 1 percent from last quarter.

The December 2004 - February 2005 U.S. pig crop, at 25.5 million head, was up 2 percent from 2004 and up 4 percent from 2003. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.85 million head, up 1 percent from last year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 48 percent of the breeding herd. The average number of pigs saved per litter was 8.94 for the December 2004 - February 2005 period, compared to 8.85 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.50 for operations with 1-99 hogs to 9.00 for operations with more than 5.00 thousand hogs and pigs.

U.S. HOG AND PIG INVENTORY, MARCH 1, 2003-05

Item	2003	2004	2005	<u>2005</u> 2003	<u>2005</u> 2004
	1,000 Head			Percent	
March 1 Inventory					
All Hogs and Pigs	58,183	59,520	59,899	103	101
Kept for Breeding	6,027	5,961	5,941	99	100
Market	52,156	53,558	53,957	103	101
Market Hogs and Pigs By Weight Groups					
Under 60 Pounds	19,086	19,823	19,817	104	100
60-119 Pounds	12,639	12,954	13,087	104	101
120-179 Pounds	10,915	11,205	11,430	105	102
180 Pounds and Over	9,516	9,578	9,624	101	100



CALIFORNIA COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER

California's production of red meat during March 2005 totaled 126.2 million pounds (dressed weight), 17 percent above the previous month and 3 percent above March 2004. The figure includes slaughter in Federally-inspected and State-inspected plants, but excludes slaughter done on farms. In March 2005, the average live weight of cattle slaughtered was 1,294 pounds; calves 126 pounds; and hogs 246 pounds.

U.S. PORK PRODUCTION AT RECORD MONTHLY HIGH FOR MARCH

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.88 billion pounds in March, down 2 percent from the 3.95 billion pounds produced in March 2004.

Beef production, at 2.04 billion pounds, was 3 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.72 million head, down 5 percent from March 2004. The average live weight was 1,238 pounds, up 21 pounds from the previous year.

Veal production totaled 13.3 million pounds, 6 percent below March a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 67.9 thousand head, down 11 percent from March 2004. The average live weight, at 328 pounds, was 20 pounds above last year.

Pork production totaled 1.80 billion pounds, up slightly from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.95 million head, 1 percent below March 2004. The average live weight was 3 pounds above the previous year, at 271 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 19.5 million pounds, was down 12 percent from March 2004. Sheep slaughter totaled 280.3 thousand head, 9 percent below last year. The average live weight was 139 pounds, down 5 pounds from March a year ago.

January to March 2005 commercial red meat production was 11.0 billion pounds, down 1 percent from 2004. Accumulated beef production was down 2 percent from last year, veal was down 13 percent, and lamb and mutton production was down 7 percent, while pork was up slightly from last year.

March 2004 and 2005 both contained 23 weekdays (including no holidays) and 4 Saturdays.

**COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER,
CALIFORNIA AND UNITED STATES, MARCH 2004-05 1/**

Species and Location	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
	1,000 Head		1,000 Pounds		Pounds	
CATTLE						
California	111.7	117.3	145,933	151,807	1,307	1,294
U.S.	2,869.3	2,723.4	3,491,935	3,371,550	1,217	1,238
CALVES						
California	9.6	9.5	1,698	1,194	177	126
U.S.	76.4	67.9	23,511	22,276	308	328
SHEEP & LAMBS						
California	---	---	---	---	---	---
U.S.	307.1	280.3	44,210	38,851	144	139
HOGS						
California	219.6	219.6	54,610	54,021	249	246
U.S.	9,038.5	8,946.1	2,420,825	2,423,007	268	271
RED MEAT	March 2004	February 2005	March 2005	<u>Mar. 05</u> <u>Mar. 04</u>	<u>Mar. 05</u> <u>Feb. 05</u>	
	Million Pounds			Percent		
California	123	107	126	103	117	
U.S.	3,945	3,423	3,879	98	113	

1/ Farm slaughter excluded.